



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*128-10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, PO Box 42525 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 • (360) 725-4000 • Fax (360) 586-8440*

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Contact: Sharon Wallace, CTED Communications Director, 360.725.4019

**Governor Locke Announces**  
**First Statewide Conference on Economic Development**

OLYMPIA — Gov. Gary Locke plans to host a statewide conference on economic development September 12-13 in Spokane, according to the Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development (OTED).

The Governor's 2002 Economic Development Conference is the first-ever statewide conference on economic development, and will focus on four key areas: leadership, partnership, recovery, and results. The theme of the summit, which is expected to attract more than 400 attendees, is "Taking Action to Secure Washington's Economic Future."

This conference will spotlight the economic development issues facing Washington state, provide opportunities for networking and building partnerships, showcase innovations and best practices, and recognize successful economic development efforts. Participants will leave with tools, information, and knowledge to enhance the economic vitality of their communities – and the state. The downturn in the economy and an increasingly competitive domestic and international marketplace demand that local, regional, and state economic development leaders come together as an integrated team concentrated on putting policy into action to secure Washington's economic future.

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The state is bringing together some of the leading economic development experts in the country to share their ideas, tools, and best practices. Conference participants will have the opportunity to work with, hear and learn from economic development professionals in the fields of business retention, marketing, and industry clusters, explore the growth of the state's cutting-edge industries, discuss critical workforce issues, understand global market opportunities, and develop business competitiveness strategies.

The conference will also provide an opportunity to recognize and celebrate outstanding economic development programs and individuals from around the state.

Gov. Locke will launch the conference with his vision for the state's economic development efforts. Keynote speaker Sally Jewell, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of REI, will offer attendees perspectives and insights on how they can best work to develop thriving economic communities across the state.

The conference will be based at the Ridpath Hotel, with some events held at the neighboring Davenport Hotel. For more information on program content, please call 206.956.3161. For all other conference information, please call 360.725.4031.

OTED is the state's lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable economic vitality throughout the state, and is part of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

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